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Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P138

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In the Claims:

1 (currently amended): An assembly for loading and unloading products which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at a first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system suitable for connecting the compass-style duct system to a coupling means installed at a second location;

a cable which during prior to product loading and unloading operations is secured between the first and second locations;

means at the first location for subjecting the cable to a constant tension; and

means co-operating with the cable for guiding the connection system along the cable until the connection system is brought into a position adjacent the coupling means;

wherein the guiding means comprises a drive winch which is connected to the connection system and which in operation frictionally engages the cable to drive the connection system along the cable between the first and second locations.

2 (canceled).

3 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cable comprises means for co-operating with a locking

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P138

system at the second location to thereby keep the cable attached to the second location.

4 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 3, wherein the means for co-operating with the locking system comprises a sleeve which is crimped onto the cable.

5 (canceled).

6 (canceled).

7 (currently amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the cable crosses ~~from a first side of~~ through the connection system ~~closest to~~ from the first location ~~to a second side of the connection system closest to~~ the second location.

8 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, wherein the constant tension means comprises an emergency disconnection system for the cable.

9 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 8, wherein the constant tension means comprises a winder and the emergency disconnection system functions to release the cable from the winder when the cable is unwound beyond a predetermined maximum number of turns.

10 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising an alignment guide which is connected to the connection system and which comprises a portion through which the cable passes which is spaced apart from the connection system.

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P138

11 (previously amended): The loading and unloading assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a rotation device capable of ordering an angular movement of the connection system relative to the compass-style duct system.

12 (previously amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 1, further comprising means for coupling the connection system to the second location.

13 (previously amended): The loading and unloading system according to claim 12, wherein the connection system comprises a female truncated conical element and the coupling means comprises a male truncated conical element which is adapted to fittingly engage the female truncated conical element.

14 (currently amended): An assembly for loading and unloading products between a first location and a second location which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at the first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system for connecting the compass-style duct system to the second location;

a cable which ~~during~~ prior to product loading and unloading operations is stretched between the first and second locations; and

a winch which engages the cable and which when activated moves the connection system from the first location to the second location;

wherein the winch is supported on the connection system and when activated frictionally engages the cable to move the connection system from the first location to the second location.

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P138

15 (previously presented): An assembly for loading and unloading products between a first location and a second location which comprises:

a balanced loading and unloading arm which is installed at the first location and which includes a compass-style duct system having a first end mounted on a base and a second end provided with a connection system for connecting the compass-style duct system to the second location;

a cable which is securely connected to the connection system; and

a winch which engages the cable and which when activated moves the connection system from the first location to the second location;

wherein a first end of the cable is connected to the first location, a second end of the cable is connected to the winch and the cable is wound around a pulley which is positioned at the second location.

16 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the winch is positioned at the first location.

17 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 15, wherein the first end of the cable is connected to means positioned at the first location for subjecting the cable to a constant tension.

18 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 15, further comprising means for attaching the connection system to the cable.

19 (previously presented): The assembly of claim 18, wherein the attaching means comprises a number of hydraulic clips.